

**FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION
MARCH 2003 COMMISSION MEETING**

SACRAMENTO, CA

March 20, 2003

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Call to Order**

Chairman Reiner called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. The following Commissioners were in attendance: Vice Chair Kim Belshé, Alice Walker Duff, Lou Vismara, Sandra Gutierrez, Chairman Reiner, and Ex Officio Commissioner Genie Chough.

- **Approval of Minutes – February 20-21, 2003**

The minutes for the February 20-21, 2003 Commission meeting were approved.

- **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Reiner reported on recent events related to "Covering the Uninsured." Below is a brief report on his remarks:

- Several events this month took place to highlight the need to "cover the uninsured." In Washington, DC, March 5 was the national launch date of "Cover the Uninsured Week" and in Los Angeles and many other cities, March 10 marked the beginning of the launch in California. Throughout the country, dozens of town hall meetings took place.
- "Cover the Uninsured Week" is an unprecedented national and local effort to raise awareness of the plight of the nation's uninsured. Former Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter serve as the national Honorary Co-Chairs of the effort.
- These events coincided with a report released by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that uncovered the following facts:
 - Nationally, 8.5 million children under the age of 18 are uninsured.
 - Uninsured children are seven times more likely to go without needed medical care than children who have health insurance.
 - Parents of uninsured children are seven times more likely to not fill or delay filling prescriptions compared with parents of insured kids.
 - Nearly three-quarters of families with uninsured children do not have access to employer-sponsored health coverage for their kids. That's despite the fact that 8 out of 10 uninsured children live in households where at least one adult works full-time.
 - Nationally, three-quarters of uninsured children are eligible for free or low-cost coverage through Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program (what we call Healthy Families in California).

- 75 million Americans, including 11 million California residents, were uninsured at some point during the two-year period of 2001-2002.
- A report released by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, based on new health data from the 2001 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), corroborates the RWJ data. It reveals that one in five Californians had no coverage for some or all of 2001 and that 56% of the uninsured were uninsured for more than a year.
- Participation at the L.A. meeting clearly reveals the seriousness of the uninsured issue: the meeting was attended by a broad coalition of divergent individuals and local organizations, including business owners, doctors, nurses, insurance executives, elected officials, and uninsured families – all making the case for the need for the issue to take center stage and for something to be done.
 - Speakers included former Mayor Richard Riordan, LA County chief medical officer Thomas Garthwaite, Patty DeDominic, chairwoman of the California Chamber of Commerce Committee on Health Care Reform, Dr. Bob Ross with the California Endowment, Rob Reiner, and others.
 - Los Angeles County is at the center of the crisis, with more uninsured people than most other parts of the country. That's why the money earmarked for coverage of kids by First 5 L.A. is so important.

Chairman Reiner provided an update on Preschool for All, in Los Angeles.

- The planning process for First 5 LA's Universal Preschool Initiative is moving forward. The first meeting of the Planning Committee, run by Karen Hill-Scott and co-chaired by Nancy Daly Riordan and former Assemblyman Bob Hertzberg will be a week from tomorrow.
- He has been working closely with the new chair of the Commission, Supervisor Yvonne Braithewait Burke, to help ensure that the initiatives are moving forward strategically and she's excited about the direction the Commission is taking.
- The Commission is hoping for some targeted early launches of Universal Preschool by the end of this year.

Chairman Reiner provided a brief update on the media ads scheduled to begin March 17:

- For the first two weeks, First 5 will be re-running two parental education ads ("Codger" and "Whirlwind") from the earlier rounds. A new anti-smoking ad ("Gift") will also be running.
- Similar spots in Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Cantonese and Mandarin will also run.
- As with past campaigns, the ads will air on TV stations throughout the state through network and cable television.
- Complementing the TV ads, radio ads are running statewide, in urban, suburban and rural markets. Print ads are in papers serving rural communities.
- However, because of the situation in the Middle East, the running of the ads has been placed on hold.
- The media launch and the ad campaign for the First 5 California Initiative, which was tentatively scheduled for April 2, 2003, has also been put on hold for the same reason.

Chairman Reiner attended a meeting of the National Governor's Association in Washington, D.C. to present on early care and education. He reported that there is significant interest in our First 5 California Initiative (school readiness) and Preschool for All, and that clearly California is a model for the rest of the country.

Chairman Reiner reported on the status of the Statewide Conference and Preschool for All Summit – April 22-25, 2003:

- The annual First 5 Statewide Conference of County Commissions will be held on April 24-25 at the Hyatt Regency Orange County in Garden Grove. Chairman Reiner will be giving one of the keynote addresses, and is honored to be joined by many experts in our field, including Dr. Frank Gilliam and Dr. Abigail Thorman, as well as a panel of true experts in the field -- parents.
 - The conference theme this year is “The Fabulous Fours: Learning from Four Years of Experience.”
 - Registration forms are due on April 1.
- This year's conference will be held in conjunction with a Preschool for All Statewide Summit on April 22-23 at the same location.
 - The purpose of the Preschool summit is to educate and inform stakeholders about:
 - Models in action across the U.S. and in California.
 - Plans of First 5 California, county commissions and the Packard Foundation.
 - Best practices and implementation lessons from other states.
 - “How to” advice and TA to build grassroots efforts while the statewide campaign builds momentum.
 - Several well-qualified presenters have been secured for the Summit, including Margaret Blood, who is the president of Strategies for Children in the State of Massachusetts, plus presenters from New York, New Jersey, Georgia, and Florida – all states that have experience with implementing Universal Preschool programs. Chairman Reiner stated that this would be a good opportunity to talk about how to expand the Commission's work and make the next investment in Preschool for All.

- **Executive Director's Report**

Jane Henderson provided a brief report as a follow-up to the February discussion of the Commission making an additional \$60-75 million investment in new initiatives.

- Several “new initiatives” were presented at the February planning meeting that the State Commission could fund to fill gaps and move the First 5 agenda forward.
- The concepts of universal health insurance for the 0-5 population and universal preschool, together with some school readiness enhancements are being considered.
- These initiatives would be funded with \$60 million over three years in one-time investments – dollars that come from accrued interest in the State Commission's trust fund – and possibly also from unexpended funds in the State Commission's Administrative Account.
- The Commission stated its preliminary preference for using a portion of that money to incentivize county commissions to fund Preschool for All, while also taking

advantage of opportunities to support Universal Health Care. The Commission requested information from staff that addresses issues of timing and reach (i.e., are county commissions ready and how far can the money go?) for each of the options.

- **Universal Health Insurance for 0-5**

- * Staff is checking statistics on insured/uninsured children 0-5 across counties to assess possible scope of project
- * Staff is looking into counties' intent/readiness to fund this

- **Preschool for All:**

- The Commission's contractor, AIR, is developing a 'planning guide' (which includes a research base for 'making the case,' county commission information on the status of Universal Preschool; available resources and how to build on them; cost models; quality standards and assessment methodologies; governance, professional development, and finance).
- The Preschool for All (April 22-23) will provide additional information and recommendations based on progress of other states and California.
- Assembly Bill 56 (Steinberg, Liu, Chan) was introduced in December to implement the recommendations – including universal preschool – of the School Readiness Working Group of the Master Plan for Education. The Commission is working on the cost parameters associated with universal preschool.

Overall Direction:

- Connect 'School Readiness enhancements' into either Preschool for All or Universal Health Insurance – or both.
- Provide incentives to County Commissions to further leverage funds for local School Readiness Programs and expand services for children regardless of immigration status.
- Consider impact and timing issues in recommendation to fund either/both new initiatives.

Dr. Henderson provided information relative to Quality Enhancements for the School Readiness Programs.

- Strong support for 'quality' in School Readiness Programs
- through a more coordinated approach for current and future quality enhancements;
- to be done in collaboration with county commissions and partners;
- move to guidelines/criteria based on research and promising practices (part of initial design of School Readiness Initiative)

Dr. Henderson also provided the status of projects not recommended for continuation.

- During the February planning meeting, staff recommended that the Commission not continue the current configuration of services via Early Steps to Reading Success and

the Accreditation project. Clearly, early literacy and site accreditation are valuable early care and education quality strategies, so the Commission is working with its partners on transitioning these valuable projects.

- **Early Steps to Reading Success (contract ends 6/30 with no-cost extension planned to 10/31/03)**
 - Meetings were held on February 25 and March 13 with representatives from UC Office of the President, CAEYC, CRLP.
 - Explored transition plans to continue early literacy work with county commissions; the Commission expects to have the plan in about 6 weeks.
 - Discussed how best to use existing contracts for evaluation and to provide information on 'early literacy' professional development for county commissions and School Readiness Programs.
 - Agreed that a decentralized delivery system to further build local capacity using 600 facilitators trained in Early Steps to Reading Success (Heads Up Reading/CAEYC and California Reading and Literacy Project/regional directors)
- **Accreditation (contract ends 12/03)**
 - A preliminary discussion regarding transition plans to continue support for accreditation for 'early learning' programs (centers and homes) has taken place.
- The Commission is working toward quality standards/guidelines through:
 - Research-based resources (e.g., 'Building SR Through Home Visitation' – D.Gomby and 'Equal from the Start' – French American Foundation). First 5 commissioned the Home Visitation report, which looks at outcomes. It is available on the Commission's website: www.ccfca.gov.
 - School Readiness Technical Assistance – UCLA
 - Continuous improvement based on School Readiness Evaluation – SRI
 - Work with projects/contractors (e.g., Matching Funds for Retention, Disabilities/Special Needs – Sonoma State)

Dr. Henderson provided an update on Matching Funds for Retention Incentives.

- Funding this pilot project is a major investment of state and local funds. It is designed to study the effectiveness of various retention/compensation options.
- Continuation of initiative funding is contingent on research findings of incentive effects on retention and professional development rates and the availability of Commission funds for this purpose.
- Commission staff is working closely with Commissioner Gutierrez on issuing a new Request For Funds (RFF) for years 4 and 5 and plans to release it as soon as possible.
- Staff is holding ongoing meetings with County Commission executive directors, program staff, and stakeholders from the field to discuss changes to the program.
- The RFF will contain standards and agreed upon program modifications based on State Commission priorities, preliminary evaluation results, county progress reports, and

information from stakeholders in the field including evaluation findings from child care Compensation/Retention Incentives (CRI) programs in other states.

- Utilizing the State Commission portion of program funds, the RFF will place a new emphasis on serving high priority (API 1-5) school communities and communities with a low supply of licensed child care by broadening/modifying the initiative in the following areas:
 1. More effective, innovative and intensive outreach that is especially targeted to reach caregivers in School Readiness communities, and areas with a low supply of licensed care.
 2. Allowing an optional entry level component for the target populations to provide initial training, supports, and incentives to entry-level staff and family child care providers who do not meet the minimum eligibility requirements in order to help qualify them for future participation in the CRI program and move along a career path;
 4. Stronger emphasis on program support services (such as professional growth advisement) and accessible training and professional development opportunities;
 5. Stronger emphasis and standards around placing and supporting participants on career paths leading to further education, professional growth, and advancement on the Child Development Permit Matrix; and
 6. Stronger emphasis on collaboration with other local agencies such as CBOs, community colleges and other training entities to discuss outcomes, barriers, and strategies to make programs effective and create a more integrated ECE infrastructure.

Dr. Henderson also reported on the Child Development Permit Stipends:

- Similar to the Matching Funds for Retention Incentives, the Child Development Permit Stipend Project will give priority to those working in School Readiness communities. An analysis of the current project reveals that, already, 43% of the applicants are from School Readiness communities.

School Readiness Initiative Update

Dr. Henderson reported on the following related to the School Readiness Program:

- **School Readiness Program Application Dates**

June 15, 2003 (Last application date for School Readiness Programs)

On 3/18/03 - sent out notification to County Commissions to add:
May 7, 2003

Extension Dates and Procedures:
September 8, 2003
October 20, 2003

- **School Readiness Program Applications**

March 14 – received five School Readiness Program applications from
‘new 13’ County Commissions

○ **School Readiness Programs in Operation**

- To date, First 5 has approximately 115 School Readiness Programs in operation and/or in the application process representing 45 County Commissions.

○ **Outreach and Information**

Teleconferences (every two-three weeks with Commission staff – program, fiscal, evaluation)

New Resources: “Building SR through Home Visitation” by Deanna Gomby, Ph.D.

Status of Migrant Farm Worker Families Project

- Dr. Henderson reported that she met with representatives from CDE to discuss project ideas and to discuss resources available through the Migrant Education Child Care and Migrant Education Even Start programs.
- She and Commissioner Vismara will be meeting next week with UFW and others in the Valley.
- A conference call will be scheduled shortly with the County Commission executive directors that are on the Migrant working group.
- This issue will be brought back to the Commission in July for action.

Update on Production/Delivery of Kit for New Parents

- On Tuesday, March 11, CCFC staff met with our contractor for Kit for New Parents to discuss corrective action plan to eliminate the current Kit delivery delays.
 - ? Contractor is now currently fully stocked with Kit components
 - ? Increased subcontractor’s direct involvement with all levels of the Kit fulfillment to streamline the process
 - ? Office of State Publishing has redirected more staff to this project.
 - ? Plan to move rapidly to assembly Kits and deliver the backlog of orders
 - ? Projected date to eliminate backlog is April 28
 - ? Commission staff recently communicated with County Commission Kit Coordinators to review existing orders to ensure they can accept all the Kits ordered over the past several months in a compressed delivery timeframe.
 - ? Corrective action plan designed to accommodate media campaign scheduled for March.

Discussion: Commissioners expressed their desire to more fully discuss the potential new initiatives (Preschool for All, universal health care, and School Readiness enhancements) before taking action in July. It was determined that another discussion should take place at a June meeting.

- **California Children & Families Association Report**

Mark Friedman, President of the CCAFA and Executive Director of the Alameda County Commission, reported on the following:

- CCAFA has completed two full-day planning sessions on its strategic plan, which will include both internal and external goals, including, but not limited to, goals related to financial stability, advocacy, achieving recognition for making early investments in children's lives.
 - Mr. Friedman stated that the CCAFA is issuing position papers, developing a cost-benefit analysis of investments made to measure performance, and developing a score card to rate state and federal legislators on children's (0-5) issues.
- CCAFA's executive committee views both the universal preschool and universal health care efforts as critical programs that should be implemented rapidly.
 - CCAFA set up two subcommittees to focus on these efforts. The universal preschool subcommittee will be co-chaired by Evelyn Martinez and Kris Perry. The universal health care subcommittee will be co-chaired by Ann Molgaard and Mike Ruane. The goal is to build on the work already done and integrate the goals into county commission strategic plans.
 - Mr. Friedman reported that counties differ in their ability to respond quickly to one initiative versus the other. He acknowledged that universal health care would be easier for counties to achieve, with more infrastructure in place and more short-term success possible, but suggested it was necessary to start immediately to build capacity for universal preschool over the long term.
 - He expressed support for state matching funds and for the creation of templates for universal preschool and universal health care. He indicated that counties understand the elements of these programs and could show rapid results.
 - Mr. Friedman committed to craft plans and bring them back to the Commission's next scheduled meeting (tentatively set for June).

Discussion: Commissioners emphasized the importance of receiving county commission input on these next initiatives. Commissioner Duff requested that CCAFA look not only at cost-benefit analysis, but also financial impact analysis of its investments.

- **Kit for New Parents**

The Commissioners unanimously approved an amount up to \$30 million over the next three years to be used for the Kit for New Parents project. The monies will be used for production, fulfillment and distribution, as well as for training new distribution partners and other related activities.

- **First 5 California Special Needs Project**

The Commission approved \$20 million total over 5 years for the First 5 California Special Needs Project that addresses its Children with Disabilities and Other Special Needs Focus Area and Mental Health Focus Area. The combination of these two focus areas was considered with significant input and discussion. It was determined that merging the two focus areas would be

beneficial to maximize early identification of conditions that are often overlooked or difficult to diagnose, improve connections to services for children with existing disabilities, and provide services to children in need of supports but who have no current diagnosis or eligibility for an existing categorical program.

While the field has many resources in dedicated and knowledgeable service providers and family members and funding provided through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, there still is developmental work to accomplish in better meeting the needs of young children with disabilities and other special needs. The proposed project would be a unique contribution in this arena. Building on the School Readiness Initiative, this project will test a reconfigured service delivery approach that provides families access to a spectrum and continuum of services appropriate to their child's individual special needs. Screening strategies will be developed and provided to all children and families within the boundaries of selected School Readiness Initiative sites. Other services offered will reflect a range of intensities, from those that promote emotional health to early intervention to treatment strategies. These services will include interventions for young children in the areas of education, health, mental health and social services. The project will provide consultation, education, and training for interdisciplinary teams of parents; early childhood educators; health, mental health and social services providers; and others who work directly with children and families.

Target Population: The target population for the First 5 California Special Needs Project is children birth to five years of age who live in communities targeted by the School Readiness Initiative and are: 1) protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); or 2) have or are at risk for a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition and who also require developmental, health, mental health, and related services and/or supports of a type or amount beyond that required generally. Families whose children are eligible for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) will benefit from early identification, IDEA-mandated services, and First 5 California supplemental and community-wide services offered at selected project sites. Families whose children are not eligible for IDEA but who require services, especially for social/emotional and behavioral issues, may receive services initially funded largely by First 5 California.

Project Components: The proposed First 5 California Special Needs Project components include:

- 1) Local Demonstration Sites at selected School Readiness Initiative Programs
Funding: Up to \$10 million total over 4 years (plus matching funds of at least equal value)
- 2) Statewide Project Coordination and Training
- 3) Program Evaluation
Funding: Up to \$1.5 million total over 5 years
- 4) Infant, Preschool, and Family Mental Health Initiative (IPFMHI)
Funding: \$3.5 million over approximately 4 years

Expected Project Outcomes: The First 5 California Special Needs Project will focus on four major emphasis areas to achieve specific project outcomes. These will be required emphasis areas for the First 5 California Special Needs demonstration sites and include:

1. Universal access to screening for early identification/diagnosis and referrals for physical and developmental issues (including social/emotional/behavioral).
2. Improved access to and utilization of screening, assessment, services and supports through coordination and reallocation of existing resources and building of new resources.
3. Inclusion of young children with disabilities and other special needs in appropriate typical child care and development and other community settings with provision of necessary supports to help the child succeed in that environment.
4. Evaluation to identify effective service delivery and training practices to better meet the needs of children with special needs, including social/emotional/behavioral issues.

- **Legislative Review Criteria**

The Commission unanimously voted to adopt the refined legislative review criteria for reviewing and determining Commission positions on legislative and budget issues. The revised criteria will assist the Commission in setting legislative priorities, target advocacy efforts and move its goals forward, ensure consistency with the Commission's mission and goals, and reduce the number of bills currently monitored to promote a manageable number of highest priority bills for active engagement.

Anticipating fewer Commission meetings this legislative session, the Commission also delegated authority to the Executive Director to approve positions on bills, consistent with the legislative review criteria and, when appropriate, in consultation with the Advocacy Subcommittee (Chairman Reiner and Vice Chair Kim Belshé).

- **Legislative Items** – The Commission took formal positions on the following bills:
 - AB 56 (Steinberg, Liu, Chan and co-authors) – School Readiness Omnibus Bill – Master Plan for Education: **SPONSOR**
 - AB 242 (Liu), AB 1550 (Goldberg), and SB (Vasconcellos) – Master Plan for Education Bills Related to School Readiness: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**
 - AB 51 (Simitian) – Land Use: Child Care Facilities: **SUPPORT**
 - AB 71 (Horton) – Cigarette and Tobacco Tax Licensing Act of 2003: **WATCH**
 - AB 810 (Runner) – Age of Kindergarten Admission: **OPPOSE**
 - AB 946 (Frommer) – Extension of Healthy Families Program: **SUPPORT**
 - AB 1327 (Wyland) – Changes to Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance: **OPPOSE**
 - SB 14 (Escutia) – Early Childhood Education Facilities: **SUPPORT**

- SB 727 (Kuehl) – Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance: **SUPPORT**

- **Meeting Calendar for 2003 and 2004**

In response to the Governor’s directive to state boards, commissions, and advisory bodies to limit their meetings to one annually in an effort to produce savings and contribute to the solutions to the budgetary shortfall, the Commission approved a revised meeting calendar for 2003 and a tentative meeting calendar for 2004. With the revised meeting schedules, the Commission will reduce its number of meetings from 10 per year to about four per year, scheduled at decision points that require Commission action on initiatives and other projects. The Commission will have the ability to schedule additional meetings if needed. As revised, the calendars for the remainder of 2003 and 2004 are as follows:

<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
June 19 in Burbank	January 15
July 17 in Sacramento	May 20
October 16 in Los Angeles	July 15
	October 21

The tentative agenda for the June 19, 2003 meeting includes, but will not be limited to, discussions of new initiatives to fund universal preschool and universal health care, and the Commission’s advocacy agenda.

- **Principles on Equity**

The State Commission discussed the framework for the draft Implementation Plan for the Principles on Equity that was developed by the Advisory Committee on Diversity. Overall, the Commissioners were in agreement with the general direction of the five priority recommendations. It was also acknowledged that the draft Plan contained an excellent summary of First 5 California’s accomplishments to date in addressing the Principles on Equity. The Commission requested that the plan be modified to add more operational information (e.g., timeline, resources, implementation activities, expected outcomes) for the priority recommendations these operational aspects of the Implementation Plan will be added as it becomes incorporated into the First 5 California Strategic Plan. The proposed implementation activities would be embedded into the work of ongoing or planned projects/initiatives wherever possible and appropriate; where there are gaps, additional resources could be considered. Since the Implementation Plan for the Principles on Equity will be incorporated into the overall Strategic Plan, it will be brought back to the State Commission in July 2003 for further consideration and approval.

- **Presentation on Child Care Realignment**

Jean Ross from the California Budget Project presented information about the Governor's proposal to realign several programs, including child care, that are currently administered at the state level to the county level.

- **Adjournment**

Chairman Reiner adjourned the meeting at 3:05.